Norms for issuance of licenses to quacks

†617. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many license holder quacks by opening their clinics are charging arbitrarily and treat the patients the way they like and this way they are duping thousand of patients and playing with their health and life;

(b) if so, the criteria to award license regarding treatment to such quacks by Government;

(c) whether these criteria are fully safe from the point of view of treatment and whether such doctors are free to run their clinics and charge arbitrarily; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to check this arbitrariness and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The licence to open clinics are granted by the State Governments. Apart from this, the State Medical Councils which grant registration to medical practitioners are empowered to take action where called for against quacks. The provisions exist in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central council Act, 1973 to take action against unqualified/unregistered practitioners of medicine. Any person who acts in contravention of the provision can be punished with imprisonment and fine under respective Acts. Since the responsibility of enforcement of the statutory provisions is that of concerned State Governments, the Central Government is not concerned with the matter.

Potable water

618. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to toxic drinking water, 37.7 million people are affected by waterborne diseases every year, of whom 75 per cent are kids under five, 1.5 million children die of diarrhea, 73 million working days lost, Rs.6,700 crore spent on treatment by rural poor and Rs.2,400 crore it cost to Nation annually;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) how alarming is the scenario of quality of potable water, the elixir of Life;

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government; and

(e) the total number of villages in the country and how many have adequate supply of potable water, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.